



Photo Courtesy of Lynn Betts-NRCS

Definition

A field border strip is a band of permanent vegetation established at the edge or around the perimeter of a field.

Purpose

Field border strips are established to control erosion at field edges, filter pollutants in runoff, provide stable areas for turning and parking farm machinery, and provide wildlife habitat.

Conservation Systems

Field borders are normally established as part of a conservation plan. Field borders are often used in conjunction with contour farming, contour strip cropping systems and contour buffer strips. Field borders are also placed in field areas to eliminate the need to plant end rows or headlands in uphill/downhill directions. Field border strips provide a stable area for turning farm machinery and parking implements such as grain carts. The vegetation can be used for hay. Field borders can enhance wildlife. Benefits to wildlife depend on species used and management. Maximum benefits for wildlife depend on increased widths and delayed mowing during reproductive periods.

Landowner/Client

Farm Number	Tract Number	Field Number
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<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife habitat	<input type="checkbox"/> Trap sediment, nutrients, pesticides, or other contaminants
<input type="checkbox"/> Stabilize field boundaries, turnrow, and headlands	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide a stable outlet for contouring systems
<input type="checkbox"/> Provide protective cover for equipment travel lanes	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

	Field Border 1	Field Border 2	Field Border 3
Field Border Width	(ft)	(ft)	(ft)
Border length on edge of field	(ft)	(ft)	(ft)
Area	(ac)	(ac)	(ac)
Seed			
Species #1	PLS lbs./ac	PLS lbs./ac	PLS lbs./ac
Species #2	PLS lbs./ac	PLS lbs./ac	PLS lbs./ac
Species #3	PLS lbs./ac	PLS lbs./ac	PLS lbs./ac
Nurse Crop	(lbs./ac)	(lbs./ac)	(lbs./ac)
Lime	(tons/acre)	(tons/acre)	(tons/acre)
N	(lbs./ac)	(lbs./ac)	(lbs./ac)
P ₂ O ₅	(lbs./ac)	(lbs./ac)	(lbs./ac)
K ₂ O	(lbs./ac)	(lbs./ac)	(lbs./ac)

Apply required lime and fertilizer and incorporate at least 3 inches. Firm seedbed prior to seeding.

Planting Methods

Drill grass and legume seed ¼ - ½ inches deep. Seed may be broadcast. Sites must be firmed with a roller before and after

broadcast seeding.

Maintenance	
1	1.1
2	2.1
3	3.1
4	4.1
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96	96.1
97	97.1
98	98.1
99	99.1
100	100.1

Maintain original dimensions of the border strip. Harvest, mow, reseed, and fertilize to maintain plant density and vigor, and remove excess plant nutrients. Shut off booms on pesticide sprayers when turning on the strip.

Additional Specifications and Notes:

[illegible]

If needed, an aerial view or a side view of the field border layout can be shown below. Other relevant information such as complementary conservation practices such as terraces and contour systems may be shown.

[illegible]